

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending, wherein claims 1 and 13 have been amended to even more clearly define the present invention, and new claim 14 has been added. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above-identified amendments and favorable reconsideration in view of the remarks presented herein below.

In paragraph 1 of the final Office action ("Action"), the Examiner rejects claims 1, 7-12 and 13 provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6 of copending Application Serial No. 10/482,815. Applicants hereby amend independent claims 1 and 13, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above-identified amendments and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of claims 1, 7-12, and 13 in view of copending Application No. 10/482,815.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, the Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1, 7-12 and 13 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 10 of copending Application Serial No. 10/518,444. Applicants hereby amend independent claims 1 and 13, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above-identified amendments and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of claims 1, 7-12, and 13 in view of copending Application No. 10/518,444.

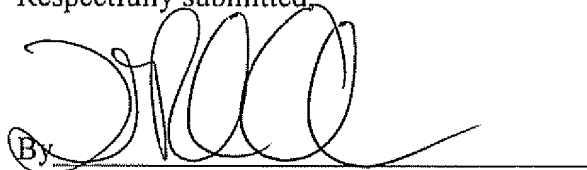
The application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Penny Caudle (Reg. No. 46,607) at the telephone

number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


By _____

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